

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 024955

70

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S:O:DLMACK

----- 000124

O 010305Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024955

NODIS

STADIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI VISA POLICY

1. I WANT TO INFORM YOU OF TWO DEVELOPMENTS THIS PAST WEEK WHICH COULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA. EARLY IN THE WEEK DURING A COURTESY CALL ON HIM, AMBASSADOR ALIREZA INFORMED SECRETARY SIMON THAT HIS EMBASSY WOULD (A) NOT ISSUE A VISA FOR MANNING SELZER, THE CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND (B) WOULD HENCEFORTH INSIST THAT THE "RELIGION" LINE BE FILLED IN BY ALL VISA APPLICANTS UNDER OUR JOINT COMMISSION SPONSORSHIP. WE WERE INFORMED OF THE ABOVE BY SIMON'S OFFICE.

2. DURING A SUBSEQUENT CALL ON ME, REQUESTED BY ALIREZA FOR ANOTHER PURPOSE, I INITIATED AN "OFF THE RECORD" TETE-A-TETE WITH HIM ON THESE MATTERS AND HE CONFIRMED THE ABOVE POINTS. ON THE VISA FOR THE COE CHIEF COUNSEL, HE SAID HE OBJECTED TO "PRESSURE" BROUGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT ON HIS EMBASSY TO ISSUE THE VISA. I TOLD ALIREZA THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INTENTION TO EXERCISE "PRESSURE"; WE HAD CONSULTED HIS EMBASSY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 024955

ABOUT WHETHER TO HANDLE THE SELZER VISA AS A REGULAR OR A

JOINT COMMISSION CASE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS. THE OFFICIAL IN QUESTION, WHO IS JEWISH, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS A

USG-PRIVATE INDUSTRY TEAM TO DISCUSS WITH THE SAG THE PROBLEMS FOR US CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN PROVIDING BANK GUARANTEES ON THEIR PROJECTS. ASIDE FROM THAT, THE OFFICIAL IN QUESTION HAS, OF COURSE, A MOST LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA IN CONNECTION WITH MAMMOTH CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN WHICH THE COE IS ENGAGED IN THAT COUNTRY. ALIREZA TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH PRINCE SAUD BY CABLE, SAYING HE SUSPECTED THE SELZER VISA WAS A "TEST CASE", AND HAD OBTAINED THE LATTER'S CONFIRMATION THAT THE VISA IN QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE ISSUED. ALIREZA SAID HE HAD ALSO RECEIVED SAUD'S APPROVAL FOR A PROPOSAL THAT JOINT COMMISSION VISA APPLICANTS WOULD HENCEFORTH HAVE TO INDICATE THEIR RELIGION, DESPITE THE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN 1974 THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY AND THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD ISSUE A VISA FOR ALL APPLICANTS SPONSORED BY THE COMMISSION CENTRAL OFFICE HERE IN TREASURY. FURTHERMORE, ALIREZA TOLD ME THAT JEWISH APPLICANTS UNDER JOINT COMMISSION SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE REFUSED VISAS.

3. I TOLD ALIREZA OF MY VERY DEEP CONCERN ON THESE MATTERS. I POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED ACTION ON THE COE CHIEF COUNSEL WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE COE'S ENTIRE PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA. (AS I BELIEVE YOU KNOW, LEGISLATION IS NOW PENDING WHICH WOULD CAUSE US TO CANCEL ANY FMS TRANSACTION WHERE THE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW THE ENTRY OF ANY PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE PROJECT ON GROUNDS OF RACE, RELIGION, ETC.) I ALSO POINTED OUT TO ALIREZA THAT THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE JOINT COMMISSION EFFORT WOULD BE EXTREMELY QUESTIONABLE IF THE SAG MOVED AWAY FROM ITS EARLIER PRAGMATIC UNDERSTANDING WITH US ON THE VISA ISSUE. NATURALLY, I EXPRESSED THESE VIEWS TO ALIREZA IN THE BROAD CONTEXT OF THE VERY HIGH VALUE WE PLACE ON OUR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND OUR DESIRE NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN BUT TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THOSE RELATIONS. I THEREFORE URGED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 024955

HIM TO SEEK A PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISIONS CONVEYED TO HIM THIS WEEK. ALIREZA SAID HE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH PRINCE FAHD FOR RELAXATION OF SAUDI VISA PRACTICES, INCLUDING MODIFICATION OF THE VISA FORM, AND BELIEVED HE WAS MAKING PROGRESS, BUT RECENT PUBLICITY AND PRESSURES IN US ON VISA AND BOYCOTT ISSUES HAD MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE NOW. NEVERTHELESS, HE AGREED TO RECONSIDER THE MATTERS I HAD RAISED WITH HIM AND COME BACK TO ME

ON THEM AS SOON AS HE COULD. WE AGREED THAT, MEANWHILE,
WE WOULD KEEP THESE MATTERS BETWEEN OURSELVES.

4. I DO NOT THINK THAT ANY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN BY YOU
ON THESE SUBJECTS AT THIS TIME, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE THE

ABOVE BACKGROUND IN THE EVENT SAUD RAISES THEM WITH YOU.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, IF ALIREZA COMES BACK TO ME WITH A
REAFFIRMATION OF THE POSITIONS CONVEYED HERE THIS WEEK,
WE WILL WANT YOU TO GET INTO THE ACTION. I HOPE THAT
WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, BUT WE SHALL SEE.

5. OF COURSE I WOULD WELCOME ANY VIEWS OR SUGGESTIONS
YOU MAY HAVE ON THE ABOVE. MARK ANY COMMENTS FOR ME
PERSONALLY IN THE STADIS CHANNEL. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-C, VISA REGULATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE024955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTONJR:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaadejp.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI VISA POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, (ALIREZA), (SELZER, MANNING)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006